VISIT…

Art Skills for a lifetime™

12 Projects That Teach The Magic of Color Shading

START SMART™

WATERCOLOR ART SET

PROJECT BOOK

LETTER TO PARENTS

The START SMART series of art products provides the lessons and tools children need to make their pictures look realistic.

Utilizing a logical array of colors and a basic shadow color along with lessons about shading and shadows, the START SMART series helps children improve their art skills one step at a time.

Once they experience success, children will enjoy art and do it more often. This will encourage them to continue using the skills they've learned – for a whole lifetime.

ArtSkills looks to the future as providers of the next generation of children's art supplies. Thank you for trying our products.

Note: For younger children, we suggest the child first do lessons 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 in the book. Afterwards go back and select the simpler images from the other images available.

Sincerely,
Steven B. Golden
President

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The START SMART™ approach is very simple. To make your images look real . . . START at the beginning and add one SMART step at a time . . .

Here Is Where We Start:

Most children already know:

1. Basic colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, black and white).
2. How to "color in."

Here Is What You Will Learn:

1. The "in-between" colors (red-orange, yellow-orange, yellow-green, blue-green, blue purple, red-purple).
2. That each color has "family members." The red family has light red, medium red and dark red. These are called different "values" of red.
3. That when light shines on any object there will be a light side, a medium side and a dark side.
4. That opposite the light side there will be a dark cast shadow.
5. By placing the proper values in the right spot the object will look realistic.

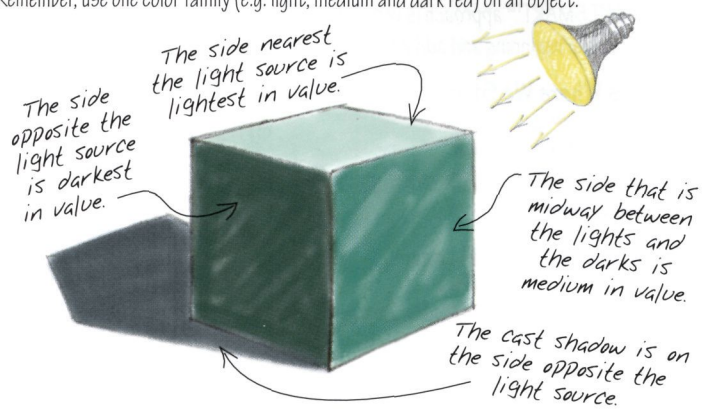
Here Is What You Do:

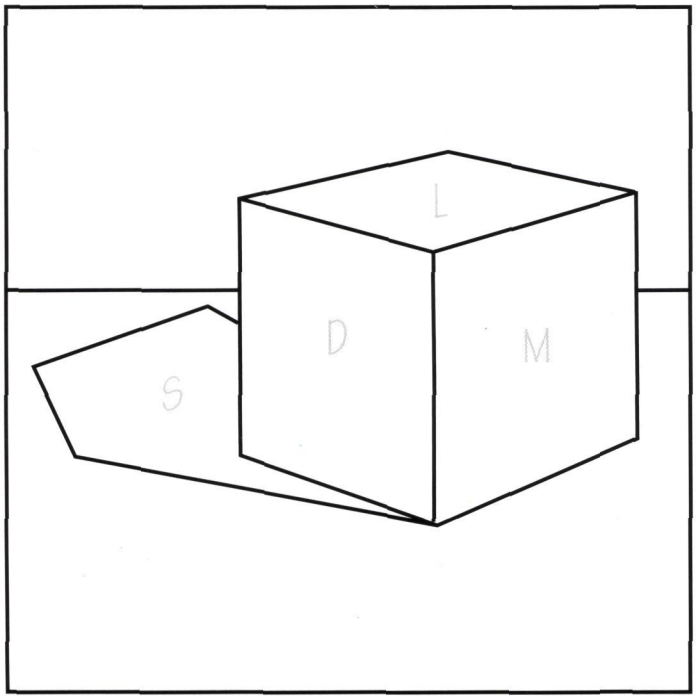
1. Select a color family (green, orange, blue-purple etc.) for each object in the picture. You will use all three watercolors in that color family to give the object a rendered 3-D look.
2. Use the 'L' (light) watercolor to paint in the 'L' areas.
3. Use the 'M' (medium) watercolor to paint in the 'M' areas.
4. Use the 'D' (dark) watercolor to paint in the 'D' areas.
5. Use the 'S' (shadow) watercolor to paint in the 'S' areas.
6. Paint in the background with any color(s) you choose.

TIPS Before You Begin:

1. Try to stay in the lines as best as you can. To make it easier for you to stay in the lines, try outlining the edges first, then filling in the rest of the space.
2. Apply the light colors lightly and the dark colors more heavily.
3. Do not paint in the book because it may bleed through; use the individual coloring pages.
4. You can do lessons 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 in this book. All of the other lessons are completed on the enclosed project sheets.

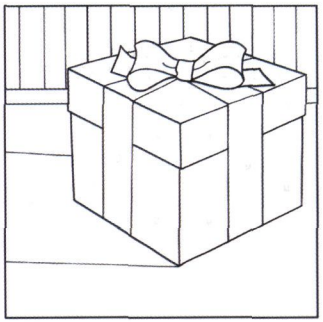
Lesson 1: When light shines on a solid object, there will be a light side, a medium side, and a dark side. Also there will be a shadow on the side opposite from the light. Applying different "values" is called "rendering" or "shading". Shading will make your object look realistic. Remember, use one color family (e.g. light, medium and dark red) on an object.



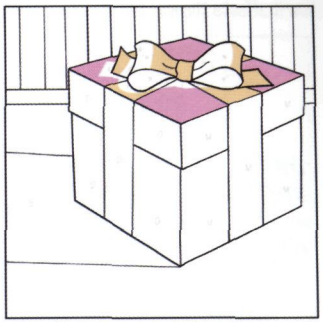


Pick a color family for the cube. Paint the D space with the dark watercolor, the M space with the medium watercolor and the L space with the light watercolor from the family you chose. Paint the S space with the shadow watercolor. Paint the background as you'd like.

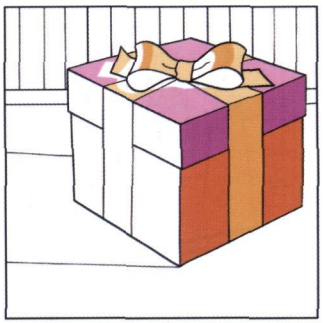
Lesson 2: Look carefully at the "values" in the finished image. Select different color families and color (render) each object with a different family.



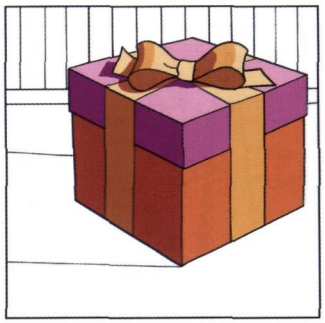
Find the gift box picture.



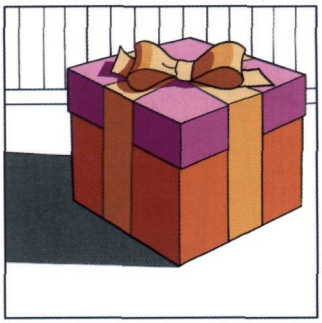
Pick a color for each object; using the light watercolor, paint the spaces marked L.



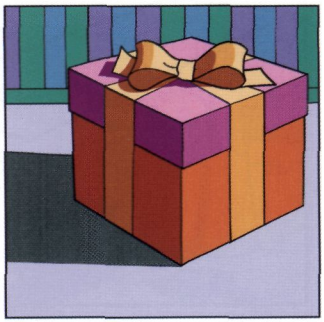
Paint the M spaces with the medium watercolor from the same family.



Paint the D spaces with the dark watercolor from the same family.

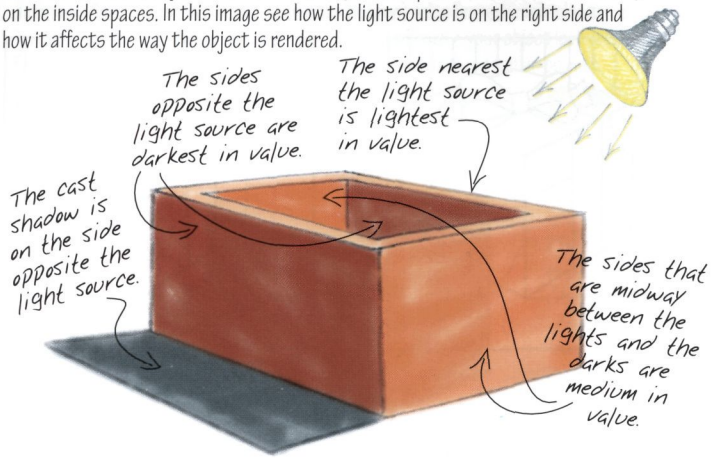


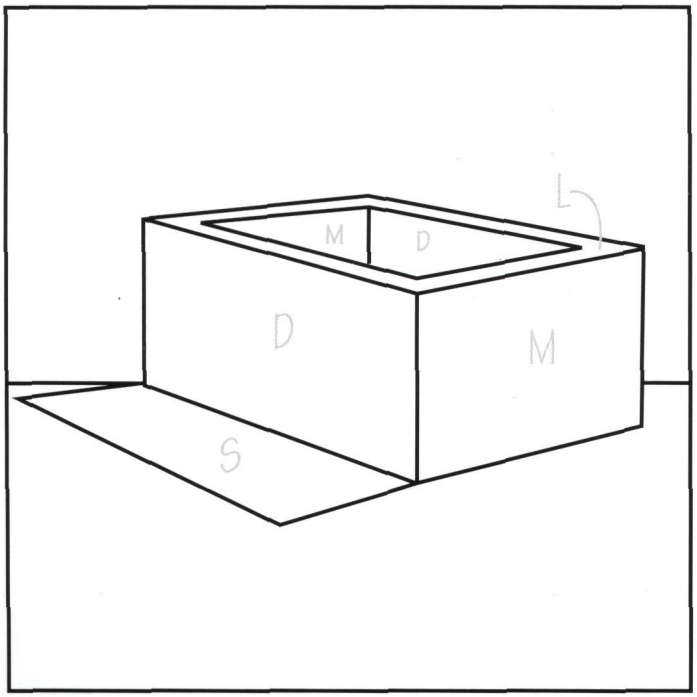
Use the shadow watercolor to paint the spaces marked with an S.



Paint the background any way you'd like.

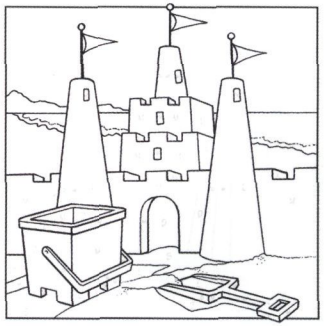
Lesson 3: Some objects are not solid, they have a space inside. Notice how the light shines on the inside spaces. In this image see how the light source is on the right side and how it affects the way the object is rendered.



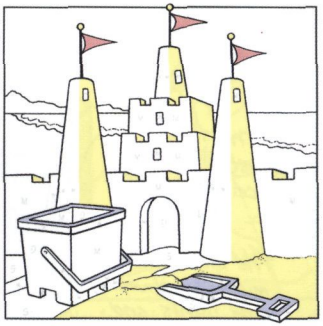


Pick a color family for the box. Paint the D space with the dark watercolor, the M space with the medium watercolor and the L space with the light watercolor from the family you chose. Paint the S space with the shadow watercolor. Paint the background any way you'd like.

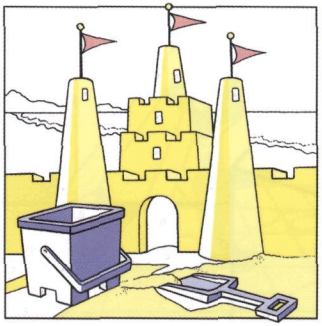
Lesson 4: Look carefully at the "values" in the finished image. Select a color family for each object. Paint one object at a time, if that is easier for you. Notice that the light source is from the right so that the shadow is on the left of each object.



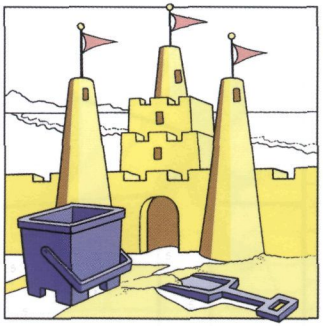
Find the sand castle picture.



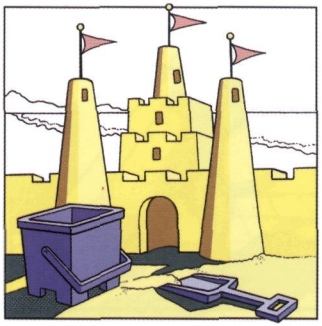
Pick a color for each object; using the light watercolor, paint the spaces marked L.



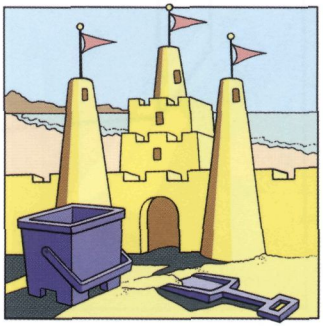
Paint the M spaces with the medium watercolor from the same family.



Paint the D spaces with the dark watercolor from the same family.

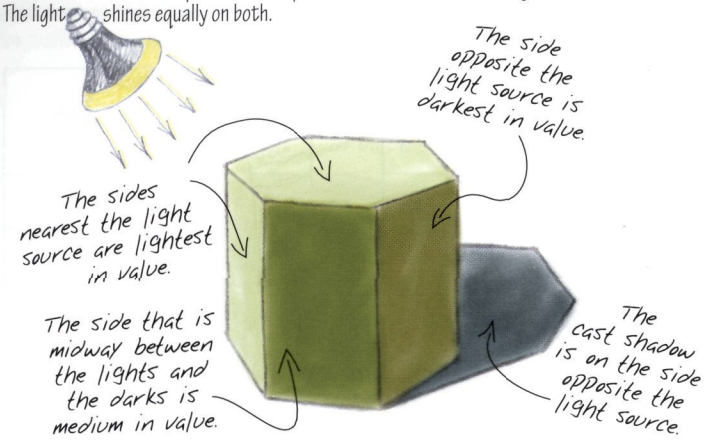


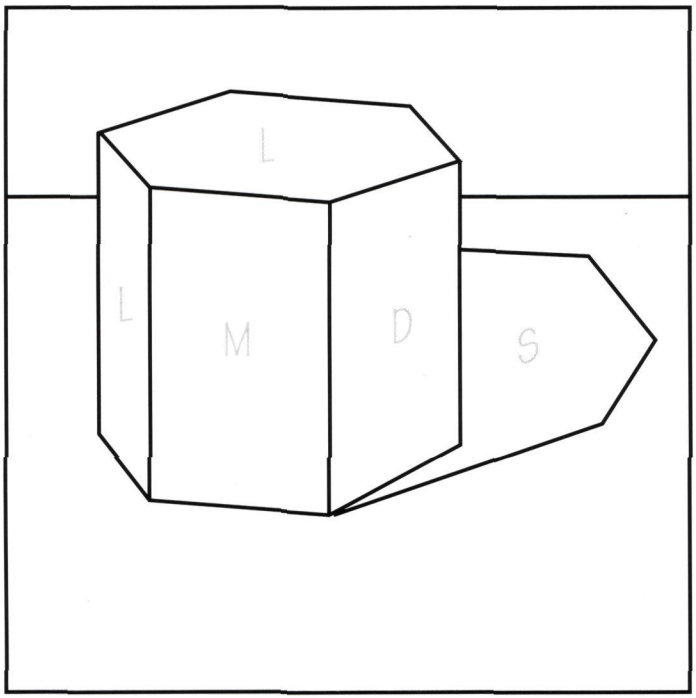
Use the shadow watercolor to paint the spaces marked with an S.



Paint the background any way you'd like.

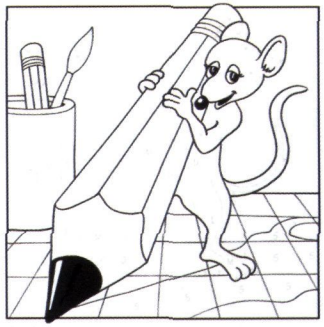
Lesson 5: In this shape both the top and one side are the same "light value". The light shines equally on both.



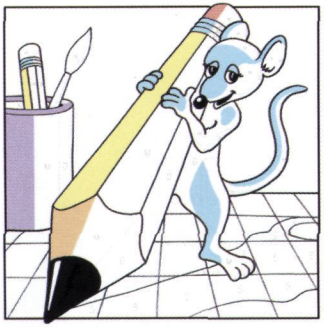


Pick a color family for the hexagon. Paint the D space with the dark watercolor, the M space with the medium watercolor and the L space with the light watercolor from the family you chose. Paint the S space with the shadow watercolor. Paint the background as you'd like.

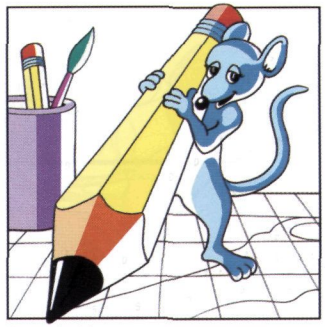
Lesson 6: Look carefully at the "values" in the finished image. Select color families for each object. Notice how the pencil casts a shadow on the body of the mouse, as well as on the floor.



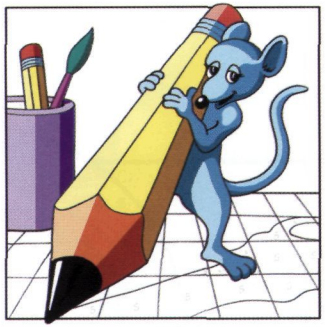
Find the mouse picture.



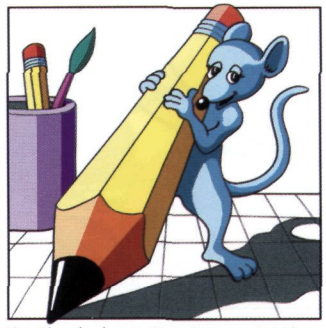
Pick a color for each object; using the light watercolor, paint the spaces marked L.



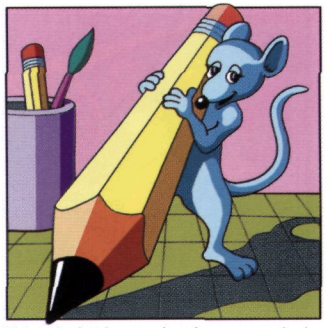
Paint the M spaces with the medium watercolor from the same family.



Paint the D spaces with the dark watercolor from the same family.

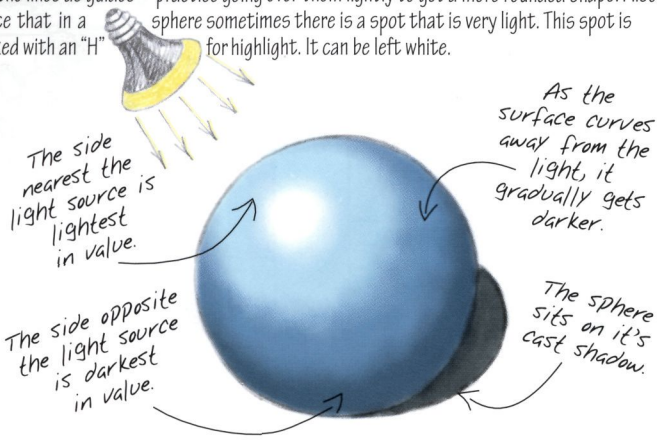


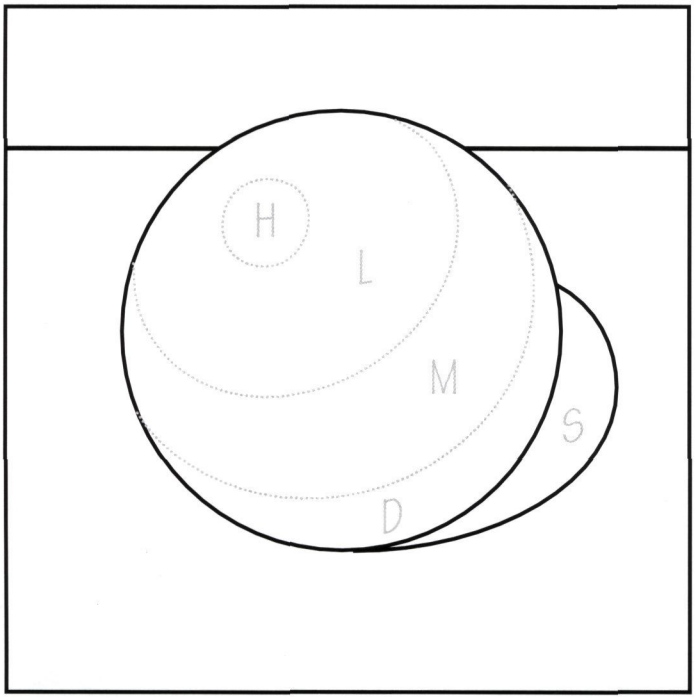
Use the shadow watercolor to paint the spaces marked with an S.



Paint the background and any unmarked spaces any colors you'd like.

Lesson 7: In a sphere there are no clearly defined edges; the values blend into one another. Use the lines as guides – practice going over them lightly to get a more rounded shape. Also notice that in a sphere sometimes there is a spot that is very light. This spot is marked with an "H" for highlight. It can be left white.

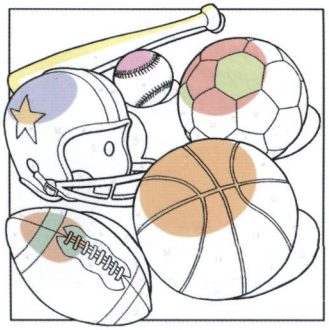




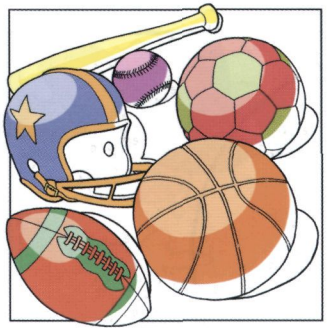
Pick a color family for the sphere. Paint the D space with the dark watercolor, the M space with the medium watercolor and the L space with the light watercolor from the family you chose. Paint the S space with the shadow watercolor. Paint the background as you'd like.

Lesson 8: Look carefully at the values in the finished image. Notice the light, medium and dark areas. See how the top left side of each object is lighter than the bottom right side.

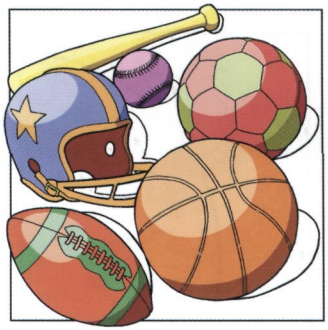
Find the sports equipment picture.



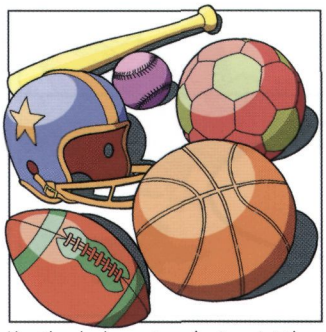
Pick a color for each object; using the light watercolor, paint the spaces marked L.



Paint the M spaces with the medium watercolor from the same family.



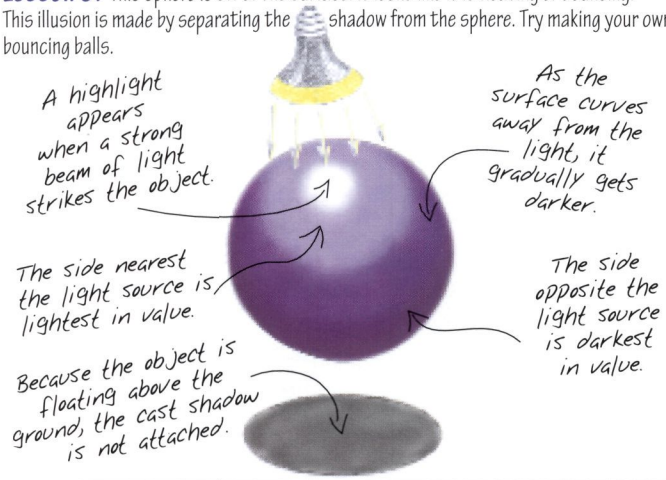
Paint the D spaces with the dark watercolor from the same family.

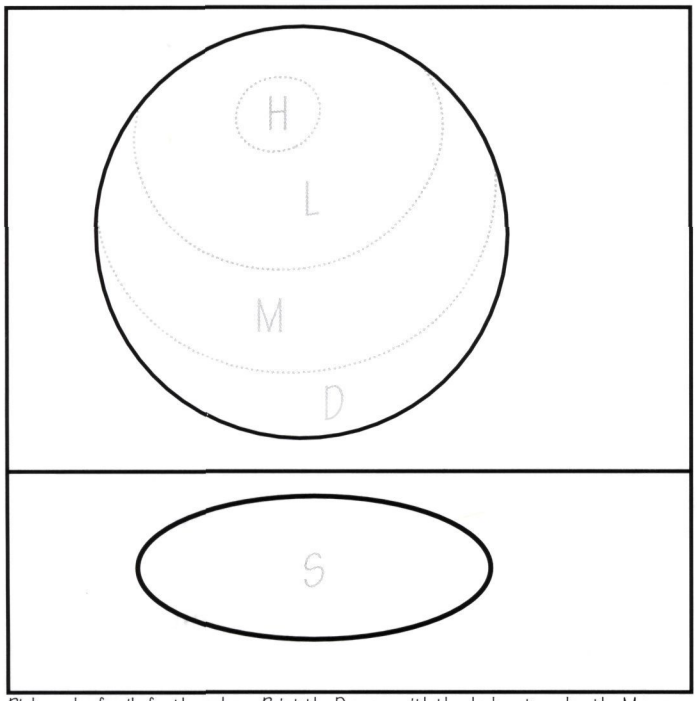


Use the shadow watercolor to paint the spaces marked with an S.

Paint the background and any unmarked spaces any way you'd like.

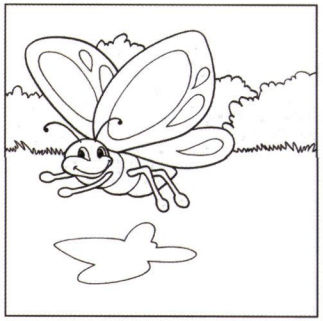
Lesson 9: This sphere is off of the surface. It looks like it is floating or bouncing. This illusion is made by separating the shadow from the sphere. Try making your own bouncing balls.



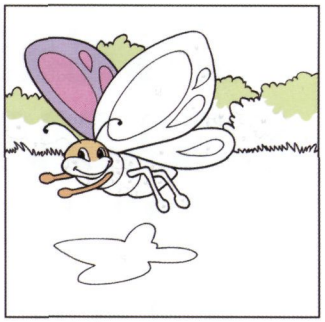


Pick a color family for the sphere. Paint the D space with the dark watercolor, the M space with the medium watercolor and the L space with the light watercolor from the family you chose. Paint the S space with the shadow watercolor. Paint the background as you'd like.

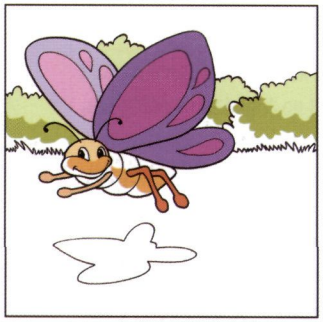
Lesson 10: Look carefully at the "values" in the finished image. Notice how the butterfly's shadow is not attached to the butterfly.



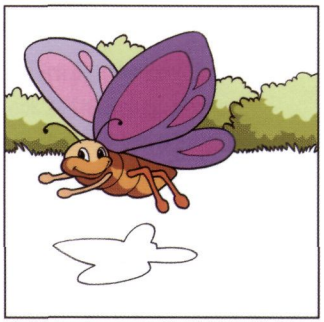
Find the butterfly picture.



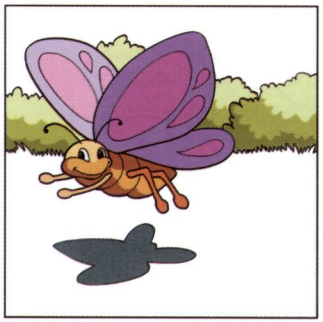
Pick a color for each object; using the light watercolor, paint the spaces marked L.



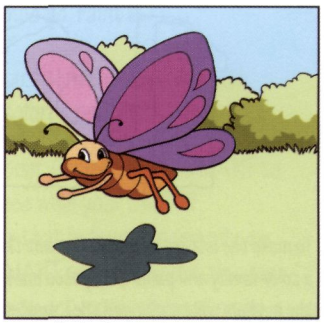
Paint the M spaces with the medium watercolor from the same family.



Paint the D spaces with the dark watercolor from the same family.

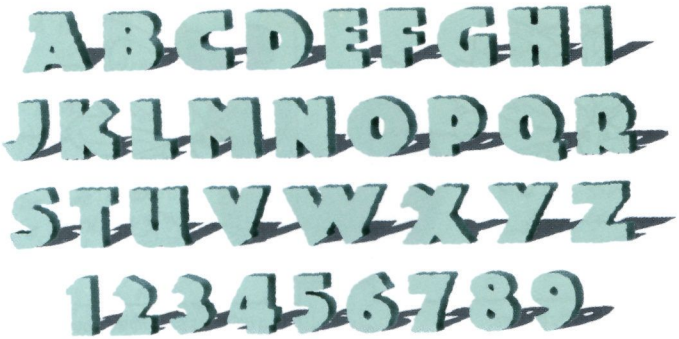


Use the shadow watercolor to paint the spaces marked with an S.

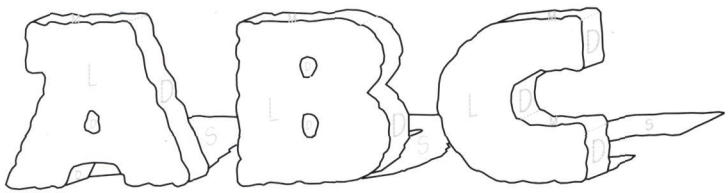


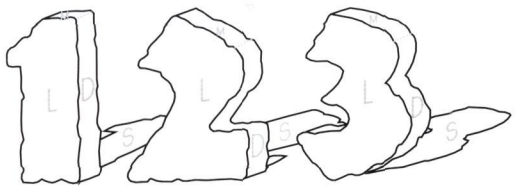
Paint the background and any unmarked spaces any way you'd like.

Lesson 11: Look carefully at the "values" in these letters. Notice how each letter is made to look round by the location of the values.



Using this complete alphabet as a guide, you can spell out anything you want.





To make the letters appear 3-D, paint them the same way you've done the pictures. Pick a color family and paint the spaces marked D with the dark watercolor, the M spaces with the medium watercolor and the L spaces with the light watercolor. Paint the S spaces with the shadow watercolor.

Dear Friend,

Now that you have finished this instruction book, here is what you should try next:

- Re-draw any of the images in the book with the light source in a different location. Imagine where the light, middle and dark color areas would be and where the shadow would fall. Try to paint the image the way you imagine it would look.
- Re-do this or another image while changing the direction of the light (right or left side, back or front, front left or front right).
- Place a small box or block on a table. Turn out the light and shine a flashlight on the box. Look at the box carefully. Notice how the coloring on the box changes as you change the direction of the light.
- Look at any painting or image that looks realistic. Notice how the light falls on the object and how the shading and shadows make it look real.
- Now draw a picture of your own. Pick a light direction; imagine where the L, M, D and S would go. Paint it.
- Try another medium. The Start Smart series is available with crayons, watercolor, markers and colored pencils.

Visit us on the web at www.artskills.com. Click on Start SMART to access more images and lessons to use with your SMART watercolors. Please fill out the survey that is found on our site to tell us what you think of the Start SMART series. You can also sign up for the ArtSkills e-mail newsletter to get more information on updates to images and other cool ArtSkills stuff.

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Directions on how to make Light, Medium and Dark Watercolors.

To create the magic of 'color shading' with Watercolors you need to make different "values" by adding more or less water. Using Watercolor all you need to do **to get L (light), M (medium), and D (dark) colors is to use a little water for the Dark colors, a little more water for the Medium colors, and more water for the Light colors**

Lets practice.

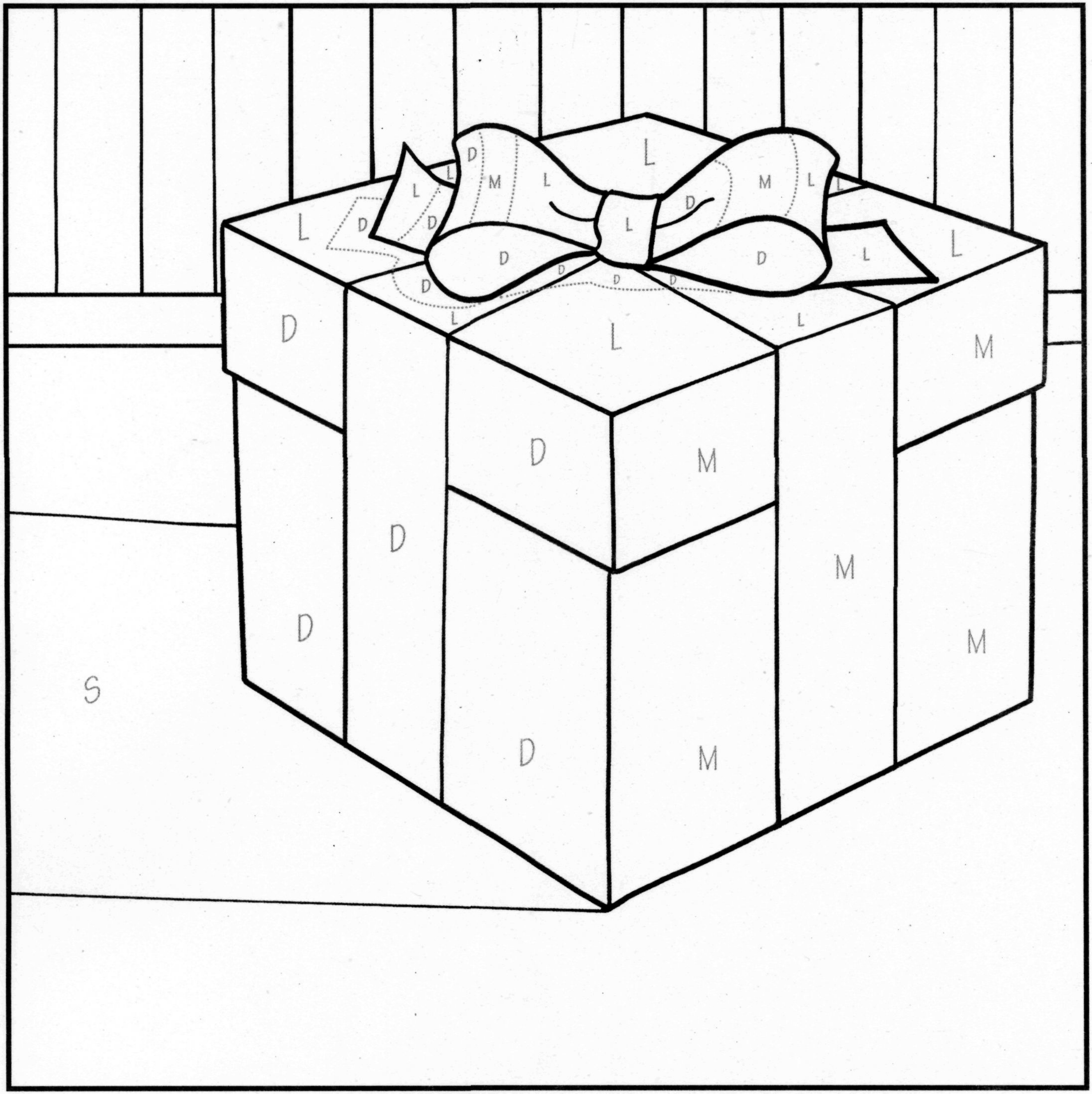
Use your mixing tray found in the inside lid of your plastic box. Wet the brush and pick up some color from a color block. To make the **D**ark color, pick a color and paint that color into a section in the mixing tray, then dip your brush back into the water, and mix it with the color in that section: To get the **M**edium color, repeat the same procedure but add a little more water. (This will thin the color and make it lighter). To make the **L**ight color, continue to add more water.

Before starting your picture **practice** in the mixing tray, and using a plain piece of paper, try to get the 3 different "values" Light, Medium and Dark.

Now apply your paint to some images in the set, try to **do all the Light areas first, then Medium then Dark**. **Remember: each time you go over watercolor the darker it gets. Start with the light color first, you can always make it darker but you cannot make it lighter.**

Paint your **Shadow Color** with the gray watercolor. Finally paint your background whatever color you would like. Adding the background color will make your image appear even more realistic.

Any questions- call us at 1-800-552-3729.
Art Skills



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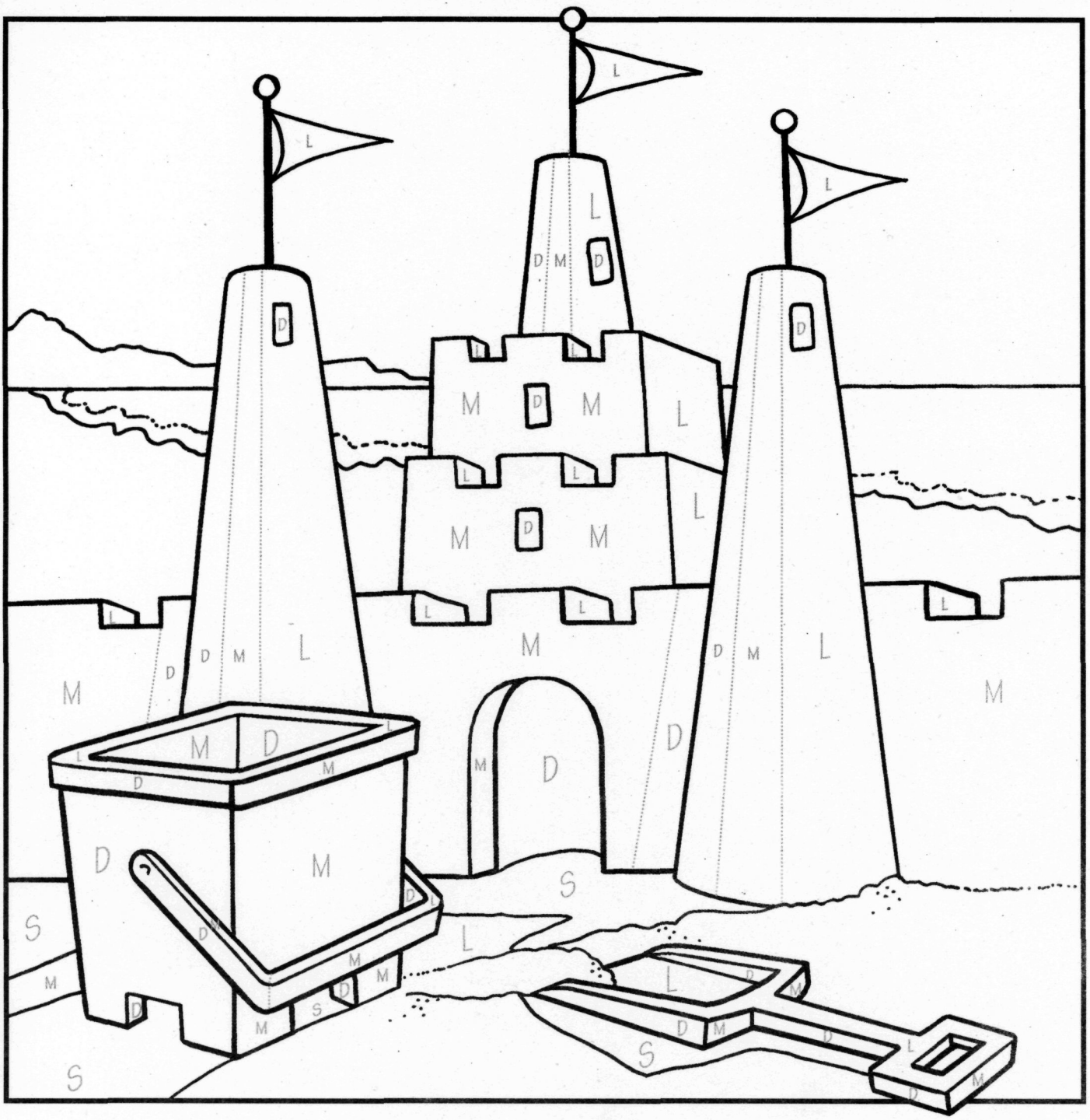

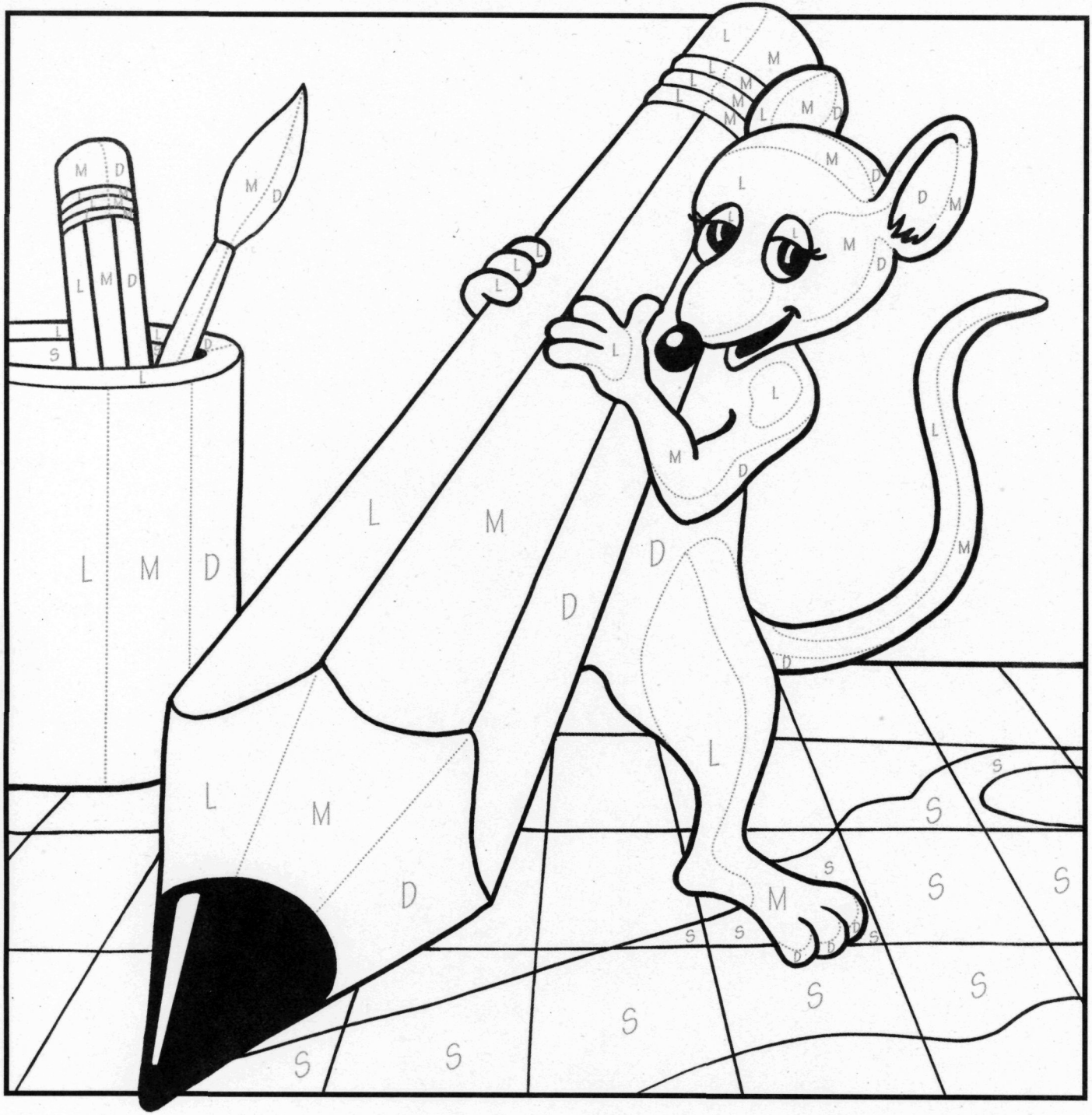

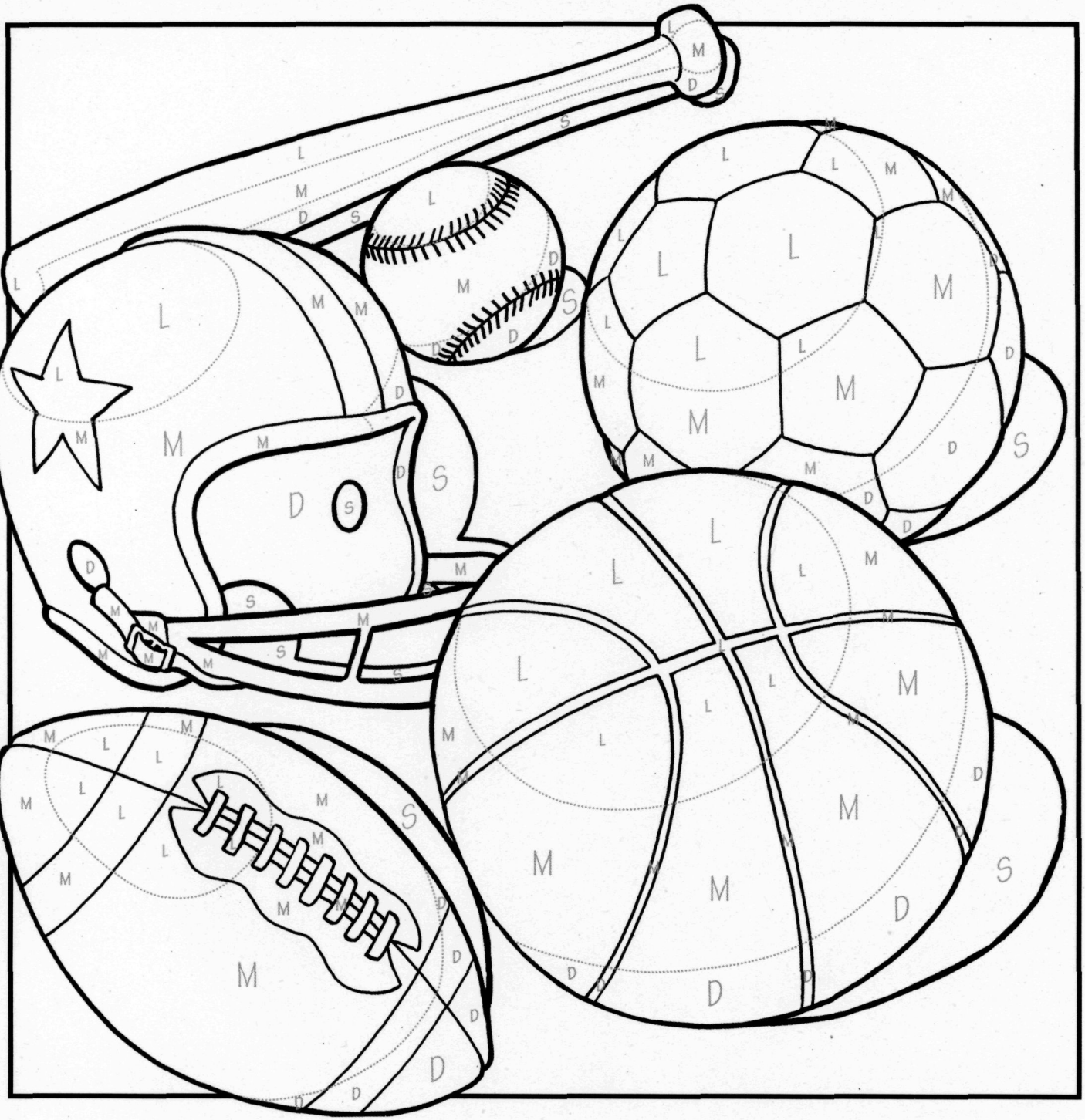

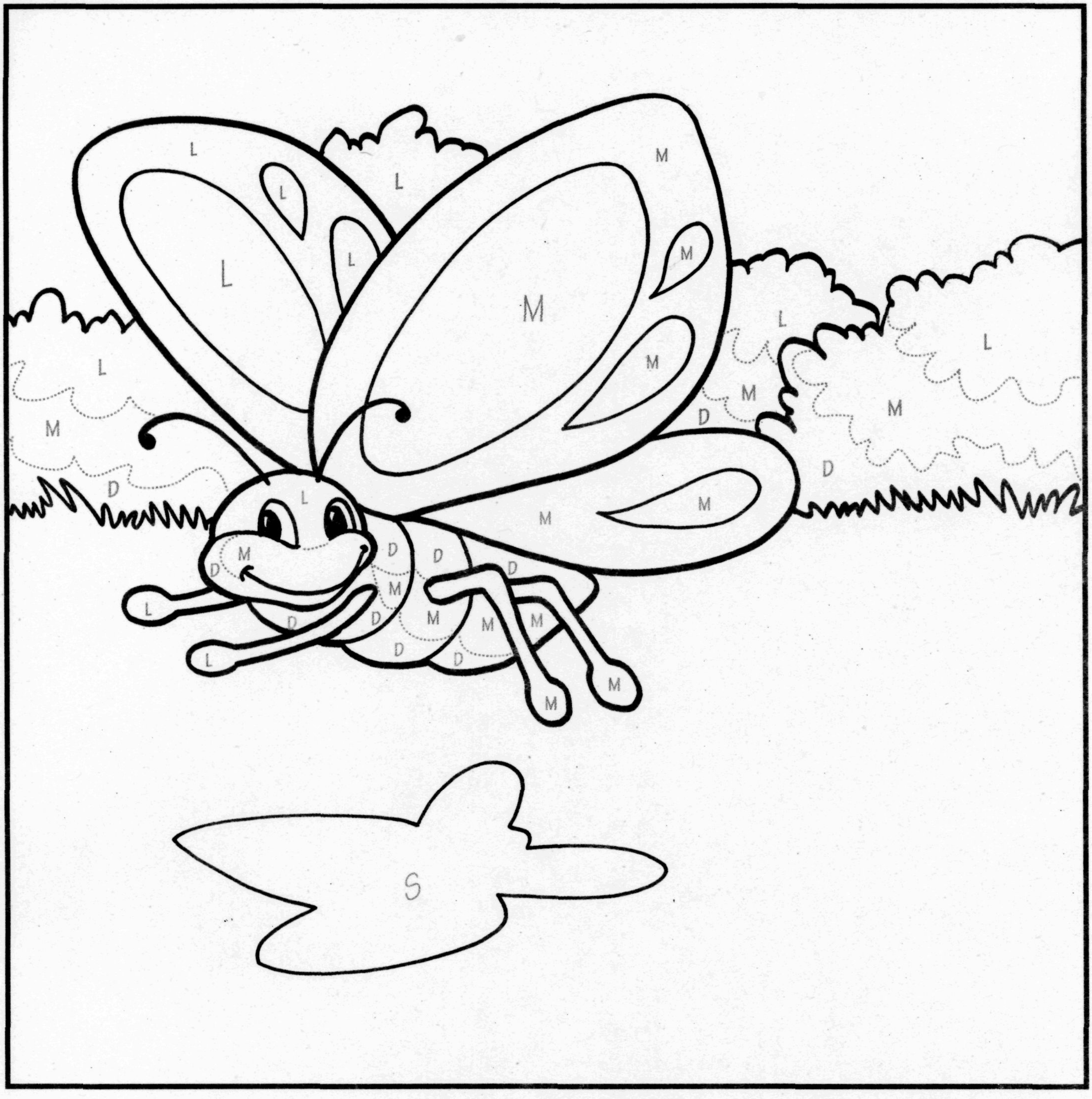

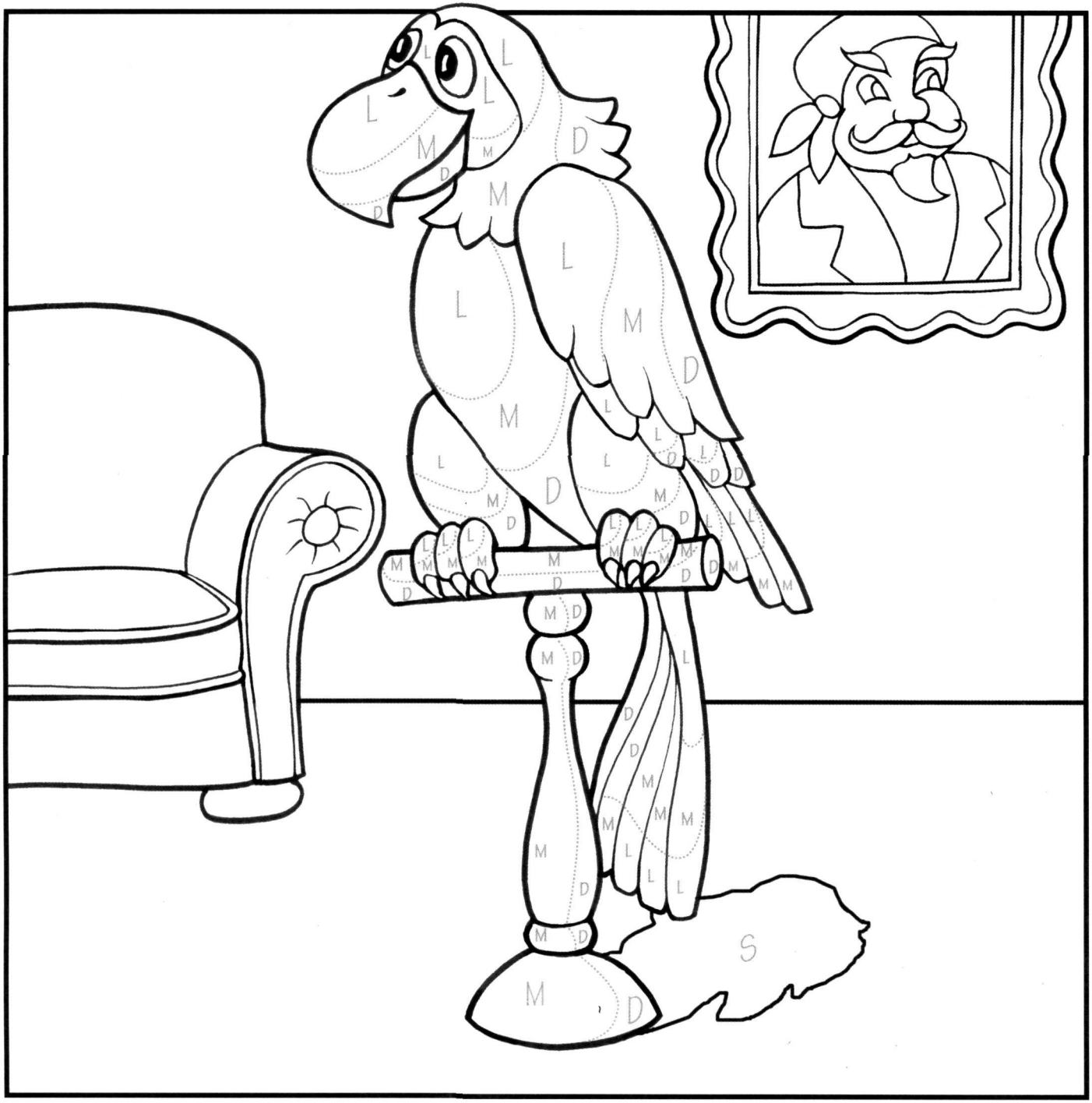

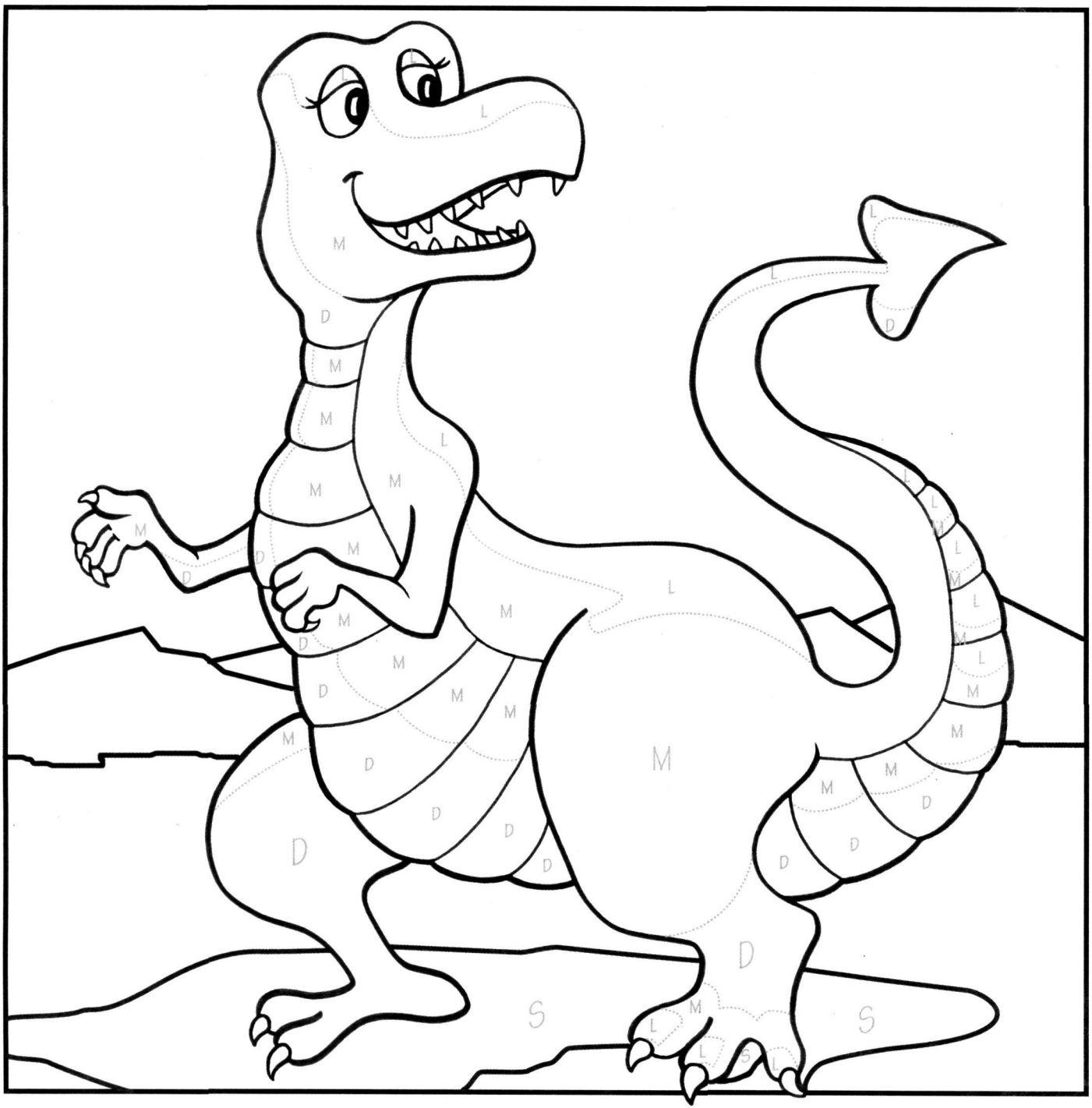

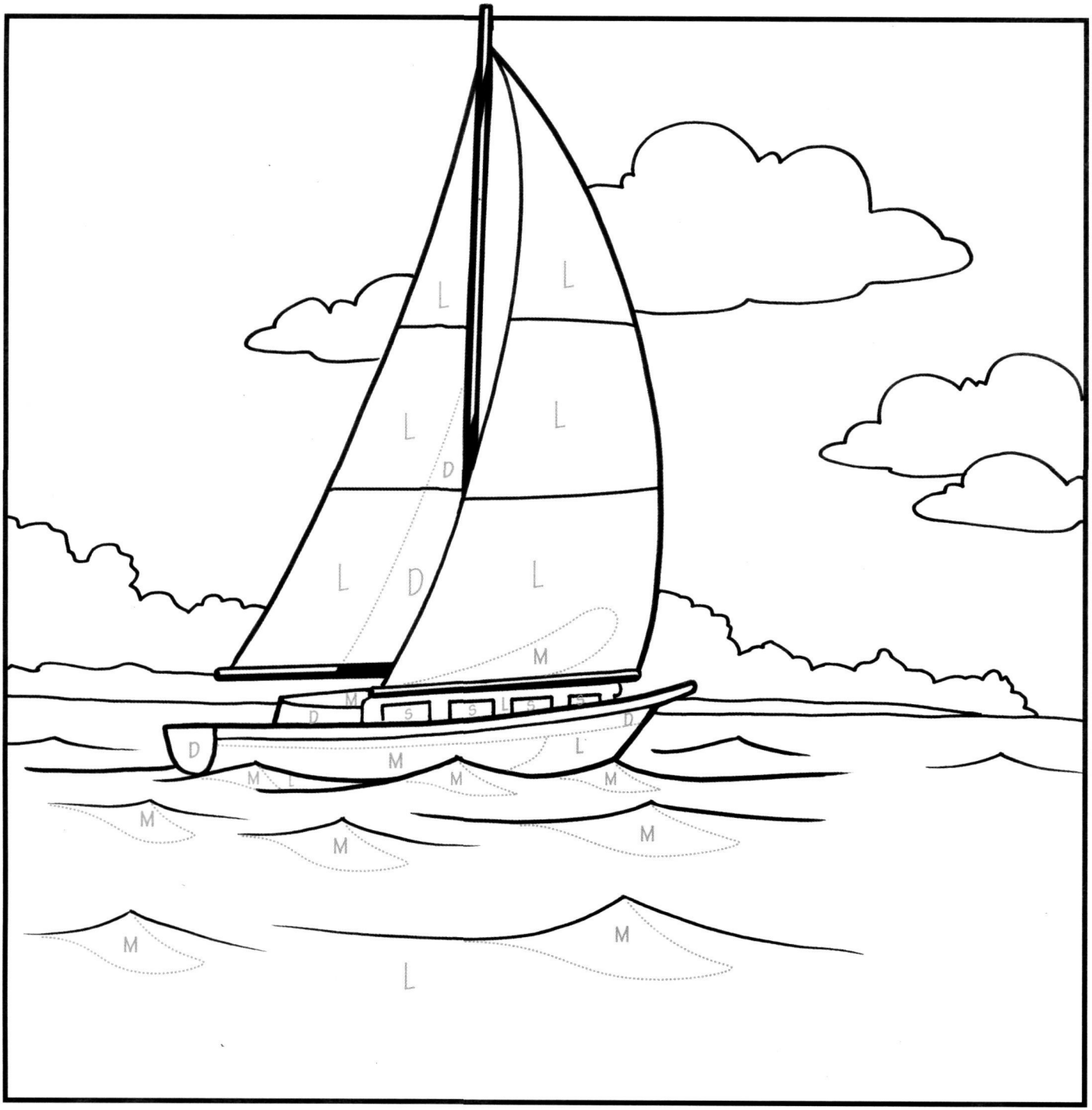
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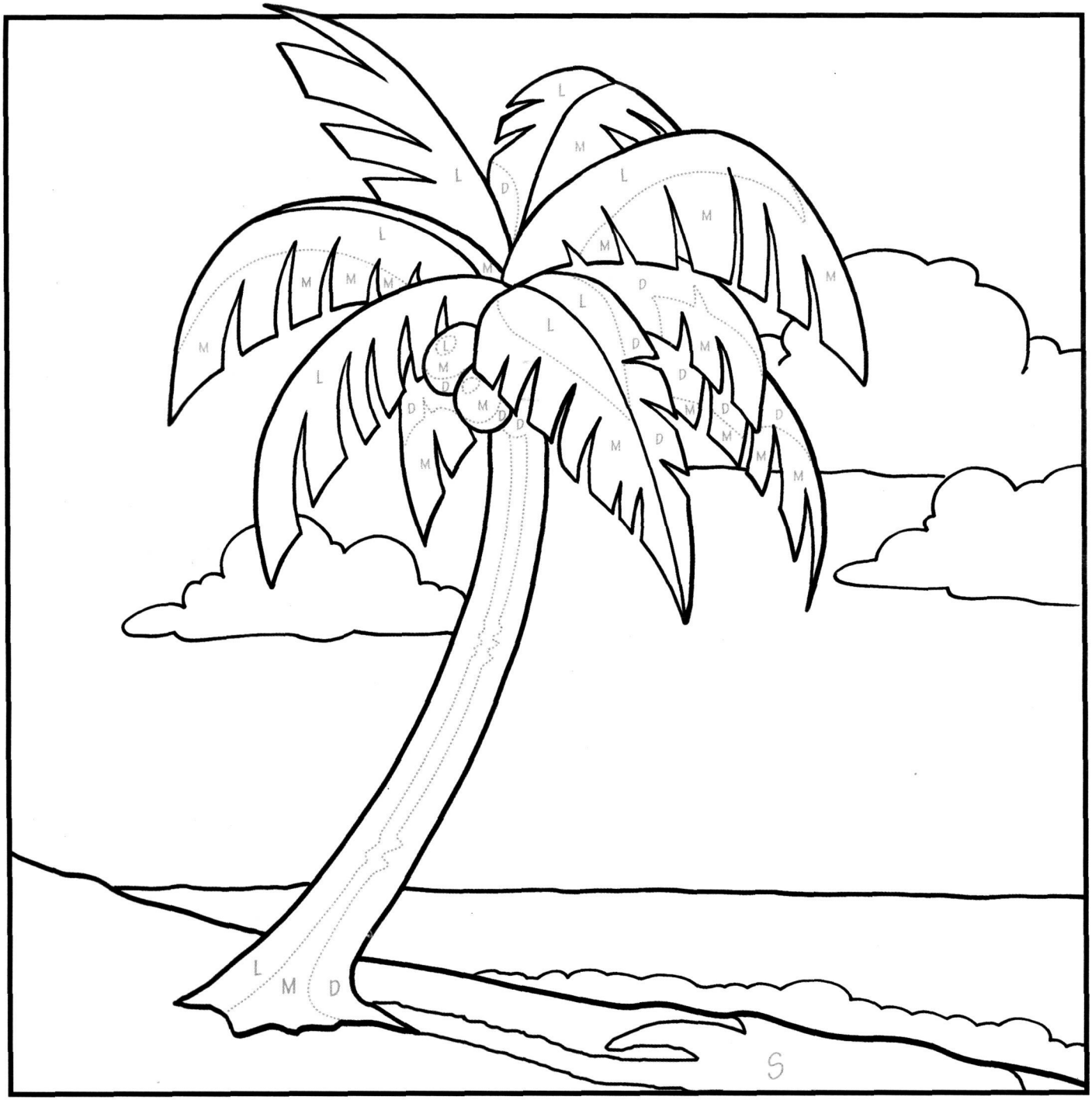
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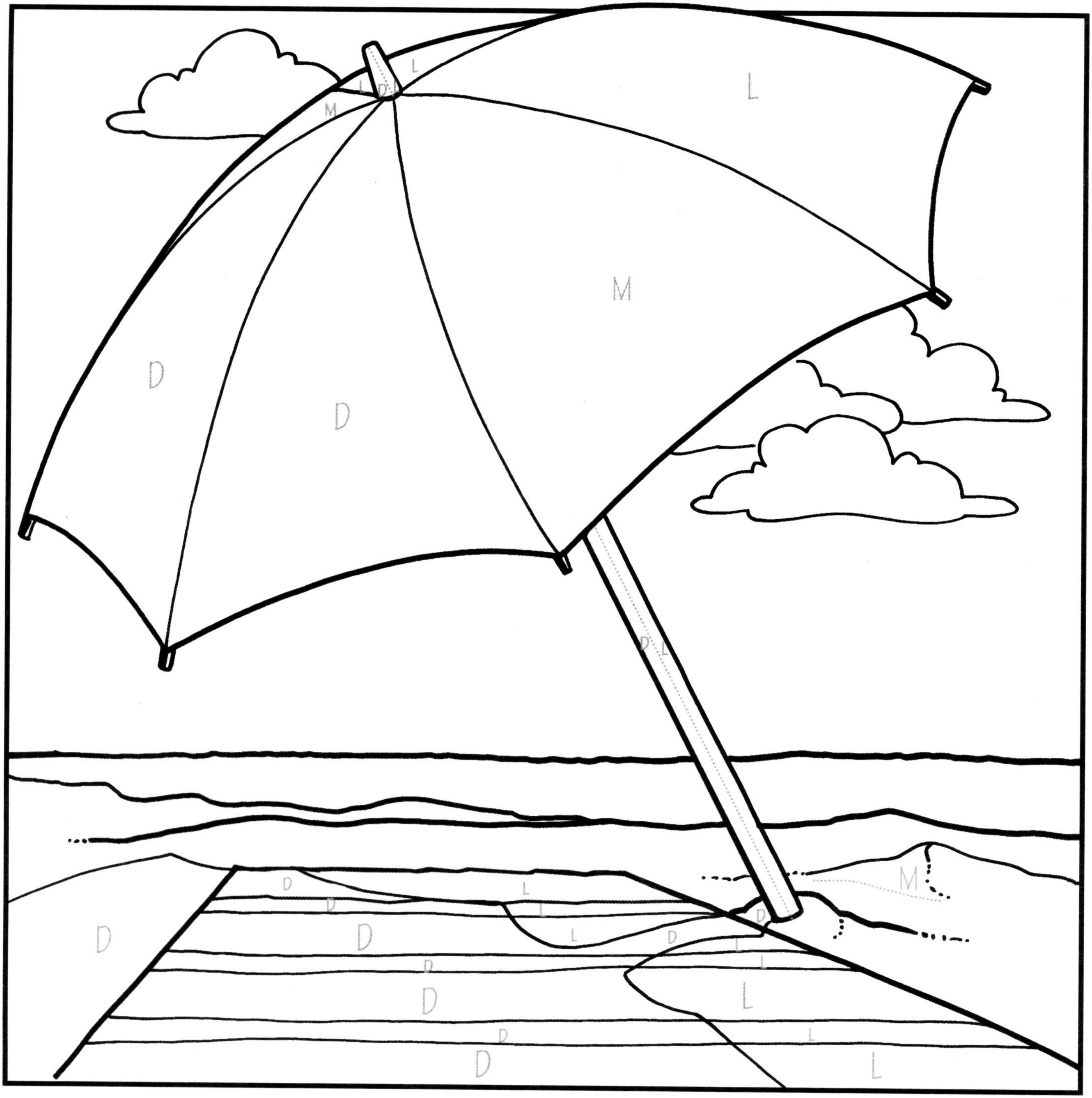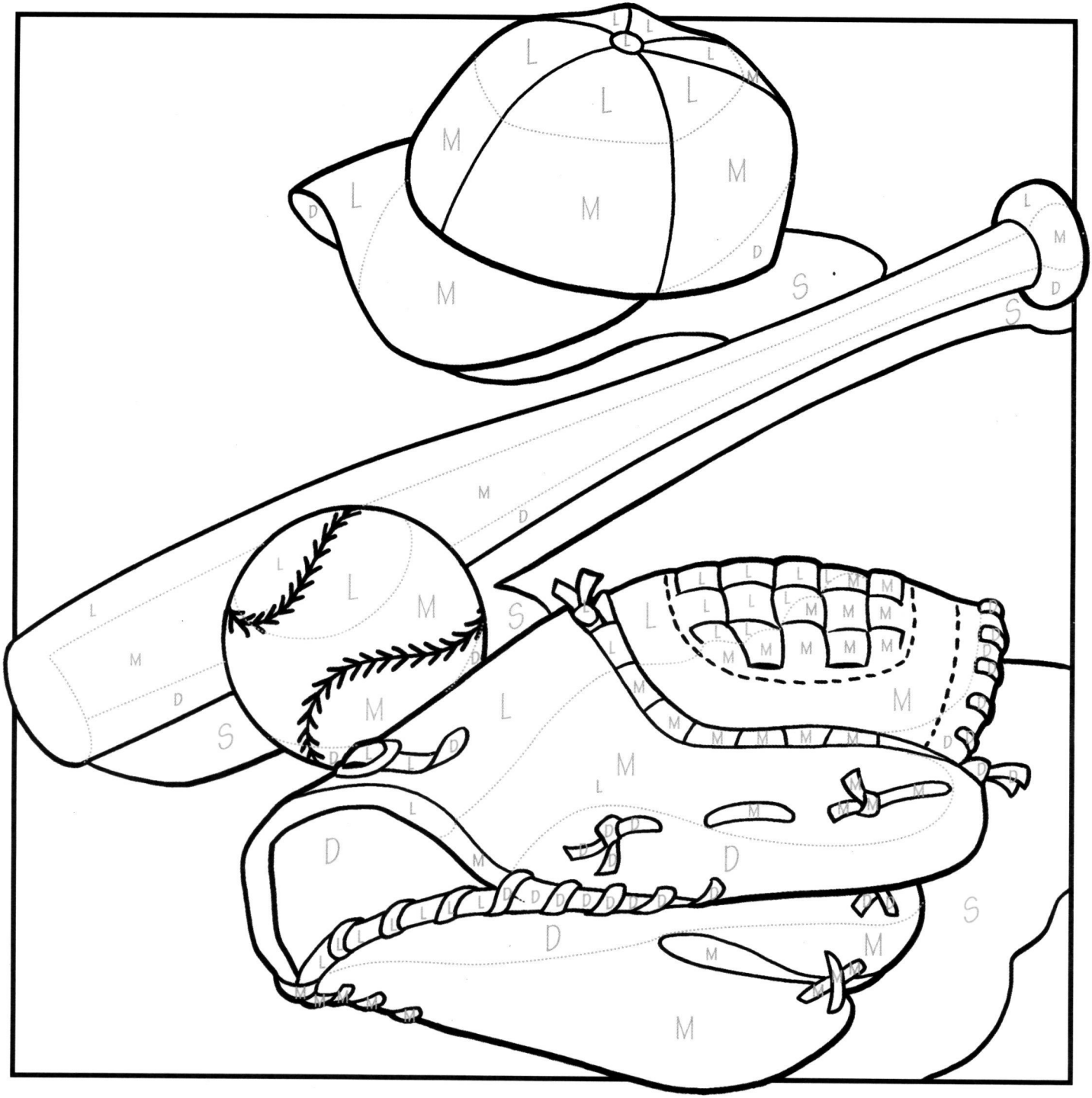
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